

Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Ancient Hymns and Prayers
six songs for voice and piano

written for Kristyn Michele

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Ancient Hymns and Prayers

six songs for voice and piano

I. Prayer to Pan

Text by Plato, Kalcheim trans.
(from the *Phaedrus*)

Music by Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Adagio ed riverente, ♩ = c. 66 *p espress.*

Voice

8

O dear - est Pan

Piano

pp

Ped. *simile*

6

and all o - ther Gods here pres - ent Grant

11

that I may be beau - ti - ful with - in.

16 *mp espress.*

And let out - side

Ped. ad lib.

21

and with - in be in har - mo - ny.

26 *mp*

May I con - sid - er wealth - y

32 *mf*

8 those who are wise, may I con - sid - er wealth-y — those who are

37 *f*

8 — wise, —

40 *mp*

8 And let — me have on-ly what pos-ses - ions —

44 *mf* *mp*

tem - perate self - re - straint can bear.

mf *p*

Ped.

47 rit.

5/4 3/4

Ped.

50 **Tempo 1** *p espress.*

O dear - est Pan

pp

Ped. *simile*

55

8

mp

and all oth - er gods here pres - ent Grant

60

8

mf *p* *espress.*

that I may be beau - - - ti - ful

64

8

rit.

with - in.

II. Hymn to the Earth

Text: Homeric Hymn, trans. Kalcheim

Music by Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Allegro giocoso (♩ = c. 80)

Voice

Piano

6

rit.

Moderato (♩ = c. 72)

11

mf

Earth, moth-er of all, I will sing, I will

p dolce

17
8

sing: _____ Firm - ly

mp

p dolce

23
8

found - ed the old - est one Who nour - shes

mf

mp

29
8

all that is on the land And all that trav - el,

p dolce

mp

35 *mf*

and all that trav - el on the won-drous land and sea,_____

mf

40 *f*

And all that fly;_____ All these are nourished_____

f

45 *mf* **poco rit. . poco meno mosso** (♩. = c. 66) *mp*

from_____ her a - bun-dance. From you, No-ble Queen,

mf *mp*

poco più mosso (♩. = c. 72)

51 *f*

they be-come blessed in child - ren_ and har - vest.

56 *mf* 2

You a - lone_____ give life_____ to mor - tals,

62 *p*

You_____ a - lone take it a - way._____

67 *mp* *ad. lib.*

Hap - py are they whom you hon-or in your

72 *p* heart. _____ For

77 *ad. lib.* **Adagio** (♩. = c. 42) them all is boun - teous:

81 *p dolce* Their life giv - ing fields lie heav - y lad - en with

85 grain, _____ Their pas - tures thriv - ing with live - stock,

88

mp dolce

And their homes are filled with good things.

p

91

poco rit.

mp a tempo

p dolce

Hail, moth - er of

pp

95

— gods, wed - ded to star-spark - ling heav - en!

99

For this my song free - ly grant me a heart - y live -

103

rit.

- li-hood.

107

Andante (♩ = c. 50)

ad lib. mp

For I will re - mem-ber you in this and oth - er songs.

p dolce

111

p dolce

116

p dolce

Earth, moth-er of all, I will

rit.

8
sing!
pp

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a time signature of 3/4. It contains four measures of music, with a 'sing!' instruction above the first measure. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and a whole rest. The second and third measures have a slur over the notes. The bottom two staves are a piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The key signature is three sharps and the time signature is 3/4. The piano part starts with a *pp* dynamic marking. The right hand plays chords and arpeggiated figures, while the left hand plays chords and arpeggiated figures. The piece ends with a double bar line.

III. Praise to the Sun

Text by St. Francis of Assisi, Kalcheim trans.
(from *The Canticle of the Sun*)

Music by Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Maestoso, ♩ = c. 50

Voice

Piano

3

Be praised— my Lord with all— your crea - tures, Be praised— my

6

Lord, Be praised my Lord

mf *f* *mf* *mp*

9

with all you crea - tures, Be praised my Lord.

mp *p* *mf* *f*

15

mp

18 *mp* *mf*

Be praised my Lord, Be praised my Lord, es - pe - cial - ly for our

p *mp*

21 *mp*

broth - er Sun.

sub p *mf*

25 *mp dolce*

He is the day, you light us through him.

p

28 *mp dolce* *mf*

And he is beau - ti - ful and ra - di - ant, with

31 great splen - dor, with great

34 splen - dor.

mp *f* *mf*

37 rit.

The musical score consists of four measures. The top staff is a treble clef with a piano (p) dynamic. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music features complex chords and arpeggios. The final measure (measure 40) ends with a cadence in G major, marked with a double bar line and repeat dots.

IV. Hymn to Night

Text: Ancient Greek Orphic Hymn, trans. Kalcheim

Music by Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Adagio, ♩ = c. 44

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-5) features a voice line starting with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'Night, — moth-er of gods and'. The piano accompaniment begins with a *pp* dynamic and includes a *Ped.* (pedal) marking. The second system (measures 6-10) continues the voice line with 'mor-tals, I — will sing, I — will sing. Hear bles-sed'. The piano part includes a *p* dynamic marking and a *mp* dynamic marking. The third system (measures 11-15) concludes the voice line with 'god - dess, dark - ly gleam-ing, — shin-ing with stars.' The piano part includes a *p* dynamic marking and features several double bar lines with a '2' underneath, indicating a second ending or a specific rhythmic pattern.

Voice

Piano

pp

p

mp

mf

p

mp

p

2

2

2

2

Ped.

Night, — moth-er of gods and

mor-tals, I — will sing, I — will sing. Hear bles-sed

god - dess, dark - ly gleam-ing, — shin-ing with stars.

16

16

pp

20

20

mp espress.

De-light - ing in still - ness and slum - ber - bring-ing

pp *p*

23

23

ease, Mer-ry, joy-ous friend of

mf *mp*

25

25

all night rev-els, moth-er of dreams,

mf

2 3 2 2 2

4

28 *rit.* *a tempo* *p* *mp*

Ban-ish-ing cares, giv-ing

p *pp* *p*

Ped.

31 *poco più mosso* (♩. = c. 52) *p dolce*

kind-ly rest from toil, Horse driv-ing giv-er of sleep,

pp

36 *mp*

dear to all, Half-formed sprung from earth, and yet of

p *8va*

41 *mf* *mf*

heav - en. — En - cir - cling danc - ing in pur - suit of phan - toms,

(8) loco

mp *mf*

45 *mp*

You ban - ish the light — to the neth - er world, —

p

48 *mf*

And then your - self flee — back to Ha - des,

mp

51 *rit.* **Tempo I** *mp*

For aw - ful ne - ces - si - ty

p *pp*

54

rules all things. But now,

mp

pp *pp* *p*

58

hap-py, man-y bles-sed Night, by all de-sired,

mf

mp *pp*

62

mp *espress.* *mf*

Gra-cious one, hear the words of my sup-pli-ant voice,

p

66

come com-pas-sion-ate, send a-way the fears that

mp *mf*

rit.

69 *mp* *p*

shine in dark - - - ness..

p *pp* *ppp*

Ped.

V. Prayer to Aphrodite

Text: Sappho, *Fragment no. 1*
trans. Kalcheim

Music by Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Andante ed amoroso (♩ = c. 60)

Voice

Piano

p

simile

5

p dolce

Im - mort - al Aph-ro - di - te, On your lux - u - rious throne, Zeus'-es child,

11

mf *mp* *p dolce*

Weav-ing wiles, Mis - tress I im-plore you: Hurt not my heart with grief and long-ing.

16 *mp*

8 But, come hith-er, — come hith-er. — For when - ev - er oth-er

21 *mf* *mp*

8 times From a-far my fly-ing words you heard, You left your fath-er's gold-en

26 *rit.* *p dolciss.* *a tempo* *mp*

8 house And came to me. You yoked your fly-ing char - iot, Then,

31

beau - ti - ful, they lead you, Your swift-est spar - rows, Ov - er the dark

mp

poco rit. **a tempo**

35

earth. Whirl-ing with their wings; From heav-en's height, through mid-dle

mp dolce *mf*

39

sky they came.

pp *p*

simile

44 *p*

8 Then you, O bles-sed one, With a smile on your death-less face,

48 *mf*

8 Asked me why now I suf-fered, Why now I called to you,

52 *mp* *mp* *p*

8 And what in my rav-ing heart, I wished would come to pass.

simile

57 *mf*

8 "Who now shall I per-suade To lead you in-to love?"

62 *f* *p dolce*

8 Who, O Sap-pho, wrongs you?" For— if she flees you now,

67 *mp* *mp*

8 Soon she will pur - sue you. If she re - jects your gifts, Soon she will be

72 *p dolce*

8 giv-ing them. If now she loves you not, Soon she'll

pp

76 *mf* *p* *3*

8 sure - ly love you, E - ven if she nev - er in - ten - ded it,

mp *p* *3*

79 *rit.* *ad lib.* *mp dolce*

8 Soon she'll sure-ly love you, she'll sure-ly love_ you. Now,

pp

82 *mp dolce* *3*

8 come to me a - gain, Re - lease me from these

simile

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a voice and piano piece. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff).
 - System 1 (Measures 72-75): The vocal line starts with a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features a series of chords in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand. Dynamics include *p dolce* and *pp*.
 - System 2 (Measures 76-78): The vocal line continues with a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment has a more active right hand. Dynamics include *mf* and *p*.
 - System 3 (Measures 79-81): The vocal line has a *rit.* (ritardando) and *ad lib.* (ad libitum) section. The piano accompaniment is mostly chords. Dynamics include *mp dolce* and *pp*.
 - System 4 (Measures 82-84): The vocal line ends with a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment has a flowing right hand. Dynamics include *mp dolce* and *simile* (simile).

85

cares un - bear - a - ble. — All my heart's de-sires — ful - fill for me,

mf

89

And be my al - ly once a - gain,

mf dolce

93

All my heart's de-sires —

mf

96

— ful - fill for me, And be — my al - ly — once —

mp

100

Musical score for measures 100-103. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The vocal line starts with a half note G4, followed by a dotted half note G4, and ends with a quarter note G4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *p* is present above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment.

a - gain.

104

rit.

Musical score for measures 104-107. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature changes to two sharps (F#, C#). The vocal line is silent. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A dynamic marking of *pp* is present above the piano accompaniment. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the final measure.

VI. Epitaph

Words: Seikilos Epitaph (1st-2nd c. CE)
trans. Kalcheim

Music by Samuel Lord Kalcheim

Andante ♩ = c. 66

mp dolce
bright

Voice

As long as you live...

p dolce

simile

5

f

As long as you live, _____ shine, _____ shine!

mf

9

p

pp

Ped.

13

p

Do not grieve at all.

3 3 3 3 3

p *mp*

poco più mosso

♩ = c. 76

18

sempre legato

p

mp 3 *simile*

mf

poco accel.

21

poco rit.

f

5/4 5/4

ancora più mosso

♩ = c. 93

23

ff

f *mf* *mp*

Ped. * *Ped.* *

28

poco rit.

p dolce

Life is but for a short while;

31 **Tempo I** (♩ = c. 66)

rit.

p dolce

pp

35 **a tempo**

pp

Time demands your

ppp

ped. * *ped.* *

39

rit.

end.

p

ped. * *ped.* *

Texts

(translations by Samuel Lord Kalcheim)

I. Prayer to Pan

(prayer from Plato's *Phaedrus*)

O dearest Pan and all other gods here present
Grant that I may be beautiful within
And let outside and within be in harmony.
May I consider wealthy those who are wise
And let me have only what possessions
Temperate self-restraint can bear

(O dearest Pan and all other gods here present
Grant that I may be beautiful within)

II. Hymn to the Earth

(Homer, *Hymn to the Earth*)

Earth, mother of all, I will sing:
Firmly founded, the eldest one
Who nourishes all that is on the land
And all that travel on the wondrous land and sea
And all that fly
All these are nourished from her abundance.
From you, Noble Queen, they become blessed in children and harvest,
You alone give life to mortals
You alone take it away.
Happy are they whom you honor in your heart
For them all is bounteous;
Their life-giving fields lie heavy laden with grain,
Their pastures thriving with livestock
And their homes are filled with good things.
Hail mother of gods wedded with star-sparkling Heaven!
For this my song, freely grant me a hearty livelihood.
For I will remember you in this and other songs.
(Earth, mother of all, I will sing!)

III. Praise to the Sun

(from St. Francis' *Canticle of the Sun*)

Be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures,
Especially through our Brother Sun,
He is the day.
You light us through him.

And he is beautiful and radiant
With great Splendor.

IV. Hymn to Night
(Orphic *Hymn to Night*).

Night, mother of gods and mortals, I will sing.
Hear blessed goddess, darkly gleaming, shining with stars,
Delighting in stillness and slumber-bringing ease,
Merry, joyous friend of all-night revels, mother of dreams,
Banishing cares, giving kindly rest from toil,
Horse driving giver of sleep, dear to all,
Half-formed, sprung from the earth and yet of heaven
Encircling, dancing in pursuit of phantoms,
You banish the light to the nether world,
And then yourself flee back to Hades
For awful necessity rules all things.
But now, happy, many-blessed Night, by all desired,
Gracious one, hear the words of my suppliant voice,
Come, compassionate, send away the fears that shine in darkness.

V. Prayer to Aphrodite
(Sappho, *Fragment no. 1*)

Immortal Aphrodite,
On your luxurious throne
Zeus' child, weaving wiles
Mistress I implore you
Hurt not my heart with grief and longing
But, come hither...

For whenever, other times
From afar, my flying words
You heard,
You left your father's golden house
And came to me.

You yoked your (flying) chariot,
Then beautiful they led you,
Your swiftest sparrows,
Over the dark earth
Whirling with their wings;
From heaven's height
Through middle sky;
They swiftly came.

Then you, O blessed one

With a smile on your deathless face,
Asked me why now I suffered
Why now I called to you,
And what in my raving heart
I wished would come to pass:

“Who now shall I persuade
To lead you to into love
Who O Sappho, wrongs you?

For if she flees you now
Soon she will pursue you.
If she rejects your gifts
Soon she will be giving them
If now she loves you not
Soon she'll surely love you
Even if she never intended it
(Soon she'll surely love you)

Now come to me again
Release me from these cares unbearable,
All my heart desires
Fulfill for me,
And be my ally once again.

VI. Epitaph

(Seikilos Epitaph, c. 1st-2nd c. CE)

As long as you live, shine!
Do not grieve at all.
Life is but for a short while;
Time demands your end.